



Ministry of Urban Development
Government of India



एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

42 CITIES PLEDGE TO BECOME OPEN DEFECATION FREE BY DECEMBER 2016 AT THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SANITATION

- MoUD concludes 2-day national workshop on sanitation

- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development gives keynote address

- Best practices shared, DRDO explains Bio Digester Technology

New Delhi | April 8, 2016: 42 AMRUT cities, which participated the 2-Day National Workshop on Sanitation in the capital, pledged towards achieving the 'Open Defecation Free' status by December 2016. The workshop, conducted for Mayors, Municipal Commissioners and officials of select 62 cities discussed key strategies for achieving an Open Defecation free country and safe treatment & disposal of human waste. The inauguration and the keynote speech was conducted by Hon'ble Minister of Urban Development, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.



Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu lighting the lamp at the inauguration of the workshop

The focus of the workshop was to sensitize cities by highlighting best practices undertaken by different centers across the country and addressing key financing challenges. Further, the panelists stressed on the



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next level of sanitation challenge post achieving ODF status - that of safe treatment and disposal of human waste, through Fecal Sludge Management (FSM), Liquid waste management and Sewerage solutions.

The highlight of the workshop was the session on '**Community Mobilisation For Sanitation Behavior Change**'. Key panelists for the session include Ms. Madhu Krishna from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who spoke on the importance of changing the way government communicates in order to interact more effectively with today's youth across the country. Another important panelist, Dr. Val Curtis from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine shed light on human psychology leading to behavioral change.

Speaking on the successful conclusion of the event, **Shri Praveen Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development & Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission**, said *"The ministry has been working very hard to ensure the state representatives are absolutely clear on mission objectives and the various schemes to support the mission. More importantly, we have been very keen to understand the local challenges and address the same. These 62 cities shall be the lighthouse for the rest of Urban India. I want to thank all the dignitaries who took time to present their ideas and their vision for a clean India, and also want to thank the delegates from all cities for attending the workshop. I am certain the workshop would prove to be educational and insightful, and would help Urban India on our path to successfully eliminate Open Defecation in the country."*

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